

News Release

A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE BRITISH GLASS FOUNDATION (BGF) AND DUDLEY MBC

The BGF is pleased to announce that a bid to the **Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)**, spearheaded a partnership with **Dudley MBC** and **JLA Consulting**, has completed its first stage successfully.

The project to convert the former Stuart Crystal site in Wordsley into a world-class facility and a new home for the renowned Stourbridge Glass collection has been awarded a development phase grant of **£142k** to cover business plan coordination, project management and design development. This allocation is to be part-matched to the sum of **£14k** from the BGF's resources that have been accrued as part of their own fundraising efforts.

Successful completion of the Round 1 development phase will trigger a Round 2 grant of over £780,000 This will finance internal fit-out of the skeleton building, which is already under construction courtesy of project partners **Complex Developments Ltd.**

Quotable quotes

'This is wonderful news and helps us enormously in our aim to provide a new home for the internationally renowned Stourbridge Glass collection. I would like to thank everyone for their support but I am particularly grateful for the on-going backing we have received from our partners at Dudley MBC, which has been absolutely crucial in helping secure this bid. Dudley MBC remains a key player in our plans and we look forward to our continuing mutual collaboration. I also thank our Consultant Jane Alexander for her assistance. HLF funding is the icing on the cake in giving the new facility the 'wow' factor that will encourage people to come through the doors and celebrate our unique glass heritage.'

Graham Knowles, Chairman BGF

'We're delighted to hear that the HLF bid has been successful and we now look forward to working with the British Glass Foundation on providing a world-class museum that the borough and its residents can be proud of. This new museum will be in the heart of the glass making area and will bring in people from all over the world to share in our proud past.'

Cllr Khurshid Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Planning and Economic Development, Dudley MBC

'I am absolutely delighted to have helped the British Glass Foundation secure the funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund which will help the BGF with the next phase of transforming the White House Cone site into an exciting new glass facility.'

Jane Alexander, JLA Consulting

All interested parties, and media outlets in particular, are urged to offer the news of this significant funding their earliest and fullest attention. Contact details below.

Notes for Editors

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

*Heritage Grants applications are assessed in two rounds. A first-round pass is given when HLF has endorsed outline proposals and earmarked funding. A first-round pass may also, as in this case, include an immediate award to fund the development of the project. Detailed proposals are then considered by HLF at second-round and as long as plans have progressed satisfactorily and according to the original proposal, an award for the project is confirmed.

British Glass Foundation (BGF)

The British Glass Foundation is an independent enabling body bringing together all relevant glass and cultural organizations and private individuals, in a common aim to protect and save the glass, archive and technical collections formerly held at Broadfield House Glass Museum; to ensure their future display to the public, their continuing access for research and their on-going promotion. www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

GlassCuts, the *ad hoc* email bulletin of the British Glass Foundation, is the voice of the BGF is available free of charge to anyone contacting bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk

The Stourbridge Glass Industry

Once dominant in the world of glass, the Stourbridge industry reached its zenith in the late 19th and early 20th centuries before undergoing a period of decline that culminated in the closure of Stuart Crystal in 2001 - the last remaining serious 'heavyweight' - and the loss of 220 jobs. However, suggestions that the industry is dead are erroneous; although it no longer produces items *en masse* (Stuart supplied the White Star line, owners of *RMS Titanic*) it thrives in areas across the range from the burgeoning studio glass movement to high-tech specialist equipment and full-lead crystal items.

Dudley MBC, Complex Developments Ltd and BGF - *the connection*

Dudley MBC is currently the custodian of the world-famous Stourbridge Glass collection, which is in the process of being transferred to the custody of the BGF on a long-term arrangement for display in the new facility. The BGF is leading facilitator between DMBC and property developers Complex Development Projects Ltd www.complexdevelopmentprojects.co.uk, owners of the White House site, in developing this permanent and sustainable new home for the collection. White House is itself historic, latterly being the home of Stuart Crystal (closed 2001).

JLA Consulting

JLA offers support to the heritage and historic environment sector to take forward the development of business planning, conservation work and activity programmes. JLA was established by Jane Alexander who worked for the National Trust as a property professional before becoming a consultant. She has operated in the heritage and tourism sector for over 20 years. www.jlaconsulting.org.uk

Further info/photo opportunities/quotes/references:

Graham Fisher MBE, BGF Trustee (PR & Comms). 01497 831358/ 07885 7686826, grahamfisher@me.com on behalf of British Glass Foundation.